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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-08 CU-04 MBFR-03

IO-12 GAC-01 RSR-01 /151 W
---------- 013790
R 091140 Z MAY 73
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1790
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 0809

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, WB, GW, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET EXHIBITION IN BERLIN

REF: A) BERLIN 741, B) BERLIN 781

1. SUMMARY. AS RESULT OF UNABATED SOVIET FLIMFLAMMERY WITH EXHIBITION IN BERLIN AND ENSURING CONTROVERSY, SENAT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO ATTEMPT ALLAY WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CRITICISM BY CANCELING CONTRACT FOR THREE PERFORMANCES BY PYATNITSKIY CHORUS AND HAS BACKTRACKED ON EARLIER UNDERSTANDING TO FLY SOVIET FLAG ON CLOSING DAY, MAY 13. CONTINUING FRONT- PAGE PRESS ATTENTION TO SOVIET SHENANIGANS AND ANTICIPATED PARLIA- MENTARY DEBATES IN BONN AND BERLIN THIS WEEK ARE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE FOR CLARIFICATION OF SOVIET INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF QA.

END SUMMARY.

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2. AFTER GIVING ALLIES ONE- DAY NOTICE THROUGH PROTOCOL CHANNELS, COMMANDER OF SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY IVANOVSKY, ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE OTHER GENERALS AND 15 FIELD GRADE OFFICERS, VISITED SOVIET EXHIBITION FOR NEARLY THREE HOURS MAY 5. SENAT OFFICIALS CONSIDERED THIS AN ATTEMPT TO BALANCE VISIT BY FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICHS PREVIOUS DAY, AS WELL AS EFFORT TO UNDERSCORE SOVIET PRESENCE IN WESTERN SECTORS.

3. SENAT CHANCELLERY HAS FORWARDED TO BONN DETAILED REPORT RELATING TO SOVIET BEHAVIOR AT EXHIBITION FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT' S USE IN REPLYING TO AT LEAST SIX PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS BY CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES EXPECTED TO COME UP MAY 10 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. MEANWHILE, BERLIN CDU HAS ARRANGED FOR DEBATE IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAY 10 ON BERLIN' S TIES TO FRG AS REFLECTED IN ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF SOVIET EXHIBITION.

4. LOCAL PRESS HAS MAINTAINED FRONT- PAGE INTEREST IN SOVIET EXHIBITION. ACCORDING TO MAY 3 TAGESSPIEGEL, ROHWEDDER COMMENTED UPON RETURN TO BONN FROM EXHIBITION VISIT (REF A) THAT HE FELT HE HAD BEEN TREATED AS " UNWANTED PERSON," AND THAT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING OPENING OF SOVIET EXHIBITION CORRESPONDED " NEITHER TO LETTER NOR SPIRIT OF GERMAN- SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT." PRESS COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY HAVE AROUSED PUBLIC' S CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET IMPLEMENTATION OF QA AND HAVE RESULTED IN PRESSURE TO THWART FURTHER SOVIET GAMBITS.

5. SENAT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH BONN, HAS DECIDED, AS RESPONSE TO SOVIET' S SHODDY TREATMENT OF ROHWEDDER AT OPENING CEREMONY, TO RENEGE ON EARLIER UNDERSTANDING TO ALLOW SOVIETS TO FLY THEIR FLAG AT EXHIBITION SITE ON CLOSING DAY, MAY 13. SCHUETZ TOLD SPD FRAKTION MAY 8 THAT HE ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC CONTROVERSY OVER FLAG ISSUE, ADDING THAT PUBLIC WAS JUSTIFIED IN CRITICIZING ORIGINAL UNDERSTNADING WITH SOVIETS. SOVIETS HAVE OBJECTED TO DECISION, ALLEGING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SNUB OF ROHWEDDER. SENAT IS ALSO TRYING TO PREVENT SOVIETS FROM STAGING MAJOR CEREMONY
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ON FINAL DAY IN PRESENCE OF COSMONAUT SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE MAY 11. GOVERNING MAYOR HAS ACCEDED TO SOVIET REQUEST RO RECEIVE COSMONAUT MAY 11, PROVIDED THAT NEITHER SOVIET COUNSELOR BELITSKIY NOR CULTURAL OFFICER ACCOMPANY HIM.

6. SENAT HAS ORDERED LOCAL SPONSOR (AMK) MAY 8 TO BREAK

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CONTRACT WITH SOVIETS FOR SCHEDULED APPEARANCES OF
PYATNITZKIY CHORUS MAY 11, 12, AND 13 IN BERLIN, INASMUCH
AS ONLY 313 OF 4,500 AVAILABLE TICKETS HAD BEEN SOLD BY
MAY 7. ACCORDING TO SENAT, BERLINERS HAVE APPARENTLY
DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND THESE PERFORMANCES IN WAKE OF SOVIET
ACTIONS AT EXHIBITION. ADDITIONAL REASON FOR CANCELLATION
WAS SOVIET INTENTION, COMMUNICATED TO SENAT EARLY MAY 8,
TO INVITE AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV, GENERAL IVANOVSKY, AND
UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF SOVIET SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM TO
CLOSING DAY' S PERFORMANCE.

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7. SENAT HAS CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT, OWING TO
PROBLEMS OF " FORM" RAISED BY SOVIET TRADE FIRMS REPRE-
SENTED AT EXHIBITION, COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS HAVE NOT BEEN
CONCLUDED WITH ANY WEST GERMAN FIRM, BUT ONLY WITH WEST
BERLIN FIRMS. SENAT IS PARTICULARLY IRRITATED BY THIS
CIRCUMSTANCE, INASMUCH AS EAST EUROPEAN FIRMS HAVE NEVER
PREVIOUSLY DISCRIMINATED BETWEEN WEST GERMAN AND WEST
BERLIN FIRMS IN ARRANGING CONTRACTS AT BERLIN FAIRS OR
EXHIBITIONS. AT SECOND DAY OF COLLOQUIUM SPONSORED BY
BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MAY 8-9 ON
" EAST- WEST TRADE AND COOPERATION," PRESIDENT VON AMERONGEN
OF THE GERMAN INDUSTRY AND TRADE ASSOCIATION TOLD GERMAN

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AND SOVIET LISTENSERS THAT BERLIN' S TIES WITH FRG IN TRADE
AND OTHER FIELDS, AS CONFIRMED IN QA, MUST BE RESPECTED
BY ALL PARTNERS TO AGREEMENT AND OTHER MEMBERS OF
WARSAW PACT. PRESIDENT COBLER OF BERLIN CHAMBER
SAID ONLY SOUND BASIS FOR EXPANSION OF EAST- WEST TRADE
WAS ACCEPTANCE BY SOVIETS AND ITS PARTNERS OF BERLIN' S
TIES WITH FRG. HE ALSO REMINDED BONN OF ITS
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RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ENSURING THAT THESE TIES ARE
MAINTAINED AND PROTECTED.

8. SCHUETZ TOLD MEETING IN BERLIN MAY 6 THAT SOVIETS
HAD YET TO PRACTICE WHAT THEY HAD ACCEPTED IN QA WITH
RESPECT TO BERLIN' S TIES TO FRG. HE ASSERTED THAT
SENAT WOULD EXERT PRESSURE TO SEE THAT QA WAS IMPLEMENTED
" IN ALL RESPECTS." BERLIN COULD NOT BE BOYCOTTED AS
CONFERENCE AND FAIR CENTER, AND SENAT WOULD NOT ACCEPT
" POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WEST BERLINERS" SUCH
AS EXCLUSION FROM FRG SPORTS TEAMS.

9. COMMENT: SCHUETZ HAS VISIBLY HARDENED SENAT' S LINE
WITH RESPECT TO SOVIET EXHIBITION, AFTER ASSESSING POLITICAL
DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY SENAT AND HIMSELF AS A RESULT OF SOVIET
MANIPULATION OF EXHIBITION. SENAT OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO TAKEN
DUE NOTE NOTE OF FACT THAT SOVIET SPOKESMEN, INCLUDING YEFREMOV
AND EXHIBITION DIRECTOR KUTS, IN VARIOUS INTERVIEWS HAVE REFERRED TO
EXHIBITION AS ILLUSTRATING BILATERAL SOVIET- WEST BERLIN TIES IN
CULTURAL AS WELL AS TRADE SPHERES. HEAD OF CHANCELLERY
HERZ TOLD MISSION OFFICER AMK SHOULD NEVER HAVE SIGNED
CONTRACT FOR PYATNITSKIY CHORUS, INASMUCH AS THIS ONLY
STRENGTHENED SOVIET CASE FOR SEPARATE CULTURAL TIES AND
PREJUDICED THEREBY FRG' S CLAIM, DURING CURRENT BILATERAL
TALKS, TO REPRESENT BERLIN IN CULTURAL MATTERS (BERLIN
0750). KLEIN

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